

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ An isolated nucleic acid molecule ~~separated from its natural source~~, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 2.

2. (Original) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid comprises the nucleic acid sequence of nucleotides 115-1,830 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

3-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ An isolated nucleic acid molecule ~~separated from its natural source~~, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide comprising amino acids 23-572 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

6-8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) A biologically functional expression vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding an osteoactivin protein, wherein said osteoactivin protein:

- (a) comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, or
- (b) comprises amino acids 23-572 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

10-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) A method for producing a substantially pure osteoactivin protein, or polypeptide fragment thereof, comprising:

- (a) culturing a cell stably transformed with the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 encoding an osteoactivin protein; and
- (b) isolating and purifying said osteoactivin protein from said culture medium.

15-39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously presented) A method for producing a substantially pure osteoactivin protein, or polypeptide fragment thereof, comprising:

- (a) culturing a cell stably transformed with the nucleic acid molecule of claim 2 encoding an osteoactivin protein; and
- (b) isolating and purifying said osteoactivin protein from said culture medium.

41. (Previously presented) A method for producing a substantially pure osteoactivin protein, or polypeptide fragment thereof, comprising:

- (a) culturing a cell stably transformed with the nucleic acid molecule of claim 5 encoding an osteoactivin protein; and
- (b) isolating and purifying said osteoactivin protein from said culture medium.

42-46. (Canceled)

47. (Previously presented) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

48. (Previously presented) The host cell of claim 47, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is operably linked to a regulatory region.

49. (Previously presented) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 2.

50. (Previously presented) The host cell of claim 49, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is operably linked to a regulatory region.

51. (Previously presented) A host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 5.

52. (Previously presented) The host cell of claim 51, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is operably linked to regulatory region.